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USE THE WEB:

- **Keep POC contact information up to date**
- **Give students the web address to find your contact information**
- **Document POC activities and events.**
- **Check to see that USPHS pharmacy is linked to your schools' web-site.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Types of events 1

Employment options 1

POC Tips 2

Get to know your school 2

LT Pellock visits school 2

Web link to PAC site 3

University Point of Contact Newsletter

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What can I do as a University POC?

Officers can participate in a wide variety of activities as a University Point of Contact. For example, pharmacy schools are usually receptive to having an officer sponsor an informal informational luncheon to promote careers in pharmacy. There is a wide variety of prepared documents on the PAC website available for presentations. Be sure, though, to be able to *talk* to the audience, and not read to them!

For those who are too timid to speak in front of large groups, colleges usually have career fairs in the fall and spring.. This is a great way to introduce the Commissioned Corps and USPHS pharmacy to students. If you have a fall event, you can encourage students to apply for the Jr. COSTEP program. Last fall, CDR Todd Stankewicz attended such an event at the University of

Illinois and was able to speak to many students about opportunities in the PHS and the residency program. Contact school ad-



Officers talk to students at a university career fair

ministration about details to sign up. Many officers find that a registration fee is waived for federal agencies. If not, then you might qualify for a reduced rate. Also, your agency may be able to provide you with freebies (pens, pads, etc) and a folding backdrop to attract prospective recruits.

Another way to get involved as a POC is to teach at a local university or college. LCDR Greg Dill teaches a Medicare reimbursement course each semester at the University of Illinois, and his uniform inevitably draws questions from students. This serves a great opportunity for teaching students a bit about the Corps.

Another example of a POC activity is to sponsor pharmacy students on rotations. LCDR Chi-Ann Wu was able to start accepting students from the Univ. of Appalachia College of Pharmacy starting in June 2007. This will give her the chance to demonstrate her practice setting firsthand.

Don't forget about civilian pharmacy opportunities!

Last fall, LT Caroline Le and Thad Koppenhafer attended a career event at the University of Colorado. LT Le discussed opportunities in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and Mr. Koppenhafer was able to talk about positions in the Indian Health Service. As a civil servant, and the Chief

Pharmacist at the Northern Navajo Medical Center, Mr. Koppenhafer represents a small, but important part of PHS pharmacists. Since not everyone wishes to become a Commissioned Officer, be sure to inform students that employment as a civil servant is an option. Tribally run

IHS clinics often employ pharmacists independently, offer competitive salary, and part time opportunities. This is a great way to introduce graduating students to federal pharmacy practice without the commitment of joining the Commissioned Corps.

Look your best, and hold on to your hat!



Before you head off to a school of pharmacy for a recruitment event, keep the following in mind:

Look your best!

- Check your uniform a few weeks before you go if possible. Be sure your uniform fits correctly!
- Get recruitment materials ready from the PAC website.
- Bring a laptop computer with a photo slide show of colleagues in action, deployment, and anything else you think a student might want to see. Let students see that we enjoy our work! As the saying goes, a picture says a thousand words."
- Former and active duty military personnel are everywhere evaluating how you look. Little things ARE noticed. One person once pointed out that my back pocket wasn't buttoned shut. (I never made that mistake again!) Polish your shoes and make sure your hair is cut according to policy.
- If you have extra uniform components, it doesn't hurt to bring them along if you have room. You never know what you might need. One officer shared a story of when he was on his way to a national convention, a gust of wind blew his cover into a busy street. It was promptly run over and destroyed by a passing car!

"If possible, get to know multiple faculty members"

Does your university administration know you?

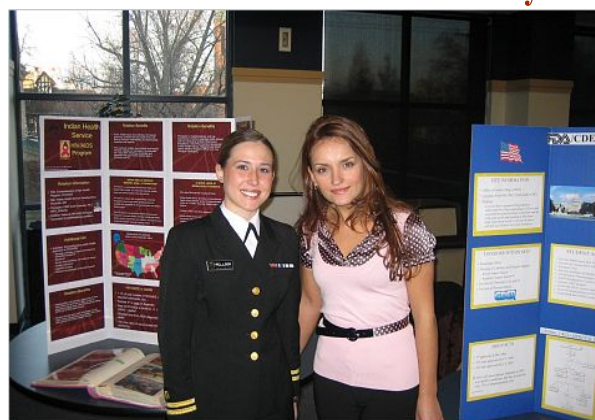
One responsibility of being a Point of Contact is being sure that you are meeting the needs of the university. Administration staff often receive questions from students concerning student rotations and summer opportunities. They should know how to reach you if they have questions about the PHS.

- Get to know the other POCs. Make contact with them regularly and coordinate recruitment efforts with them. If you are a primary POC and are unable to attend an event, try to have a secondary POC attend in your place.
- Speak with faculty and administration every semester in person if possible. If not, keep in touch by telephone or email. If you are able, get to know multiple faculty members.
- Does your school have a job listing bulletin board? Ask permission to post the vacancy listings for IHS, BOP, and FDA on it.
- Pass on vacancy announcements to a faculty member who has access to student email lists.
- Be PROACTIVE! Don't wait for the phone to ring to talk to professors and administrators.

LT Susan Pellock attends poster session at the Wilkes Univ. School of Pharmacy

Submitted by LT Susan Pellock

On February 5, 2007, my pharmacy student Marina Sulik and I attended the Wilkes University Nesbitt School of Pharmacy and Nursing Poster Session hosted by Rho Chi Honor Society. The Poster Session is a wonderful opportunity for fifth year pharmacy students to gain valuable information on rotations available to them for the upcoming year. Rotation selection is one of the most stressful times in the student's six years of pharmacy school, so an opportunity like this is very important. As a student, you would like to select rotations that you are going to gain valuable knowledge to use as a licensed pharmacist. You also want to choose rotations



LT Pellock visits Wilkes University (cont'd)



Student Marina Sulik helped fellow students learn more about the PHS

see the interest of all the students as they passed our posters containing information about IHS, FDA and USPHS. Marina gathered information about the FDA and USPHS as part of one of her graded projects while completing a rotation with the FDA/Office of

Generic Drugs. CDR Scott Giberson (Indian Health Service) provided additional information for a poster pertaining to his work with HIV/AIDS Program in Rockville, Maryland. Unfortunately, CDR Giberson was unable to be present at the poster session, but many thanks were given to him for sharing valuable information about the IHS. The eve-

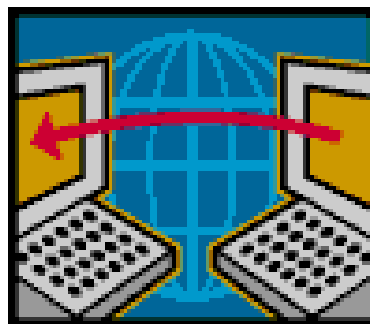
ning was filled with many questions that were answered by both Marina and me regarding the rotation experience and the multiple opportunities pharmacists have as a Commissioned Officer with the USPHS. At the end of the evening, many of the students left the Poster Session with an eagerness to apply to the Student Experiential Program with hopes of being selected.

(Continued from page 2)
that provide you with opportunities that you have not had the chance to experience. I was honored to represent the USPHS Commissioned Corps at the Poster Session with my student, Marina. It was exciting to

Does your university have a link to the USPHS Pharmacy PAC website?

Last November, letters were sent to 89 schools of pharmacy asking them to add a link to the USPHS Pharmacy PAC website. A recent survey of pharmacy schools showed that the link was present on only 14 of the 89 (15.7%) schools. As a UPOC, you can help with this effort by checking your schools website and contacting the site administrator to have

the link added. The link is: <http://www.hhs.gov/pharmacy/main.html>
Today's pharmacy students depend more and more on the internet for career information, so the greater the presence we have, the better! Hits to the pharmacy PAC website will be monitored periodically to evaluate the effect of more pharmacy schools adding the link to their website.



Stay tuned for the next issue of the University Point of Contact Newsletter coming in the Fall of 2007

Please send UPOC school reports & photos to LCDR Peter Vermilyea at peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org